

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

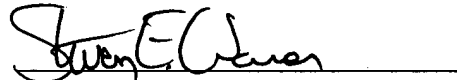
Claims 1, 2 and 4-11 are presented for examination. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Support for these changes can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

For essentially the same reasons as set forth in the Amendment After Final Rejection filed on February 17, 2004, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in independent claim 1, is patentably defined over the cited art. In this regard, Applicant has amended claim 1 to amplify the distinctions between the projection exposure apparatus of the present invention and the cited art.

Applicant submits, therefore, that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Applicant requests favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance of this application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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